NUMB. CXLI.

# The SPECTATOR.

*——Migravit ab Aure voluptas*
*Omnis——* Hor.

*Saturday, Auguſt* 11. 1711.

IN the preſent Emptineſs of the Town I have ſeveral Applications from the lower Part of the Players, to admit Suffering to paſs for Acting. They in very obliging Terms deſire me to let a Fall on the Ground, a Stumble, or a good Slap on the Back be reckoned a Jeſt. Theſe Gambols I will tollerate for a Seaſon, becauſe I hope the Town cannot continue longer than 'till the People of Faſhion and Taſte return to Town. The Method, ſome time ago, was to entertain that Part of the Audience who have no Faculty above Eyeſight, with Rope-Dancers and Tumblers, which was a very diſcreet enough, becauſe it prevented Confuſion, and diſtinguiſhed ſuch as could ſhow all the Parts which the Body is capable of, from thoſe who were to repreſent all the Paſſions to which the Mind is ſubject. But tho' this was prudently ſettled, Corporeal and Intellectual Actors ought to be kept at a ſtill wider Diſtance than to appear on the ſame Stage at all: For which Reaſon I muſt propoſe ſome Methods for the Improvement of the Bear-Garden, by diſmiſſing all Bodily Actors to that Quarter. In Caſes of greater moment, where Men appear in Publick, the Conſequence and Importance of the Thing can bear them out. And tho' a Pleader or Preacher is Hoarſe or Awkward, the weight of their Matter commands Reſpect and Attention; but in Theatrical Speaking, if the Performer is not exactly proper and graceful, he is utterly ridiculous. In Caſes where there is little elſe expected, but the Pleaſure of the Ears and Eyes, the leaſt diminution of that Pleaſure is the higheſt Offence. In Acting, barely to perform the Part is not commendable, but to be the leaſt out is contemptible. To avoid theſe Difficulties and Delicacies, I am informed, that while I was out of Town the Actors have flown in the Air, and play'd ſuch Pranks, and ran ſuch Hazards, that none but the Servants of the Fire-Office, Tilers and Maſons could have been able to perform the like. The Author of the following Letter, it ſeems, has been of the Audience at one of theſe Entertainments, and has accordingly complained to me upon it; but I think he has been to the utmoſt degree Severe againſt what is exceptionable in the Play he mentions, without dwelling ſo much as he might have done on the Author's moſt excellent Talent of Humour. The pleaſant Pictures he has drawn of Life ſhould have been more kindly mentioned, at the ſame time that he baniſhes his Witches, which are too dull Devils to be attacked with ſo much Warmth.

*Mr.* SPECTATOR,

'UPON a Report that *Moll White* had follow'd you to Town, and was to act a Part 'in the *Lancaſhire Witches*, I went laſt Week to 'ſee that Play. It was my Fortune to ſit next to a 'Country Juſtice of the Peace, a Neighbour (as he 'ſaid) of Sir ROGER's, who pretended to ſhew her 'to us in one of the Dances. There was Witchcraft 'enough in the Entertainment almoſt to incline me 'to believe him; *Ben. Johnſon* was almoſt lam'd; 'young *Ballock* narrowly ſav'd his Neck; the Au'dience was aſtoniſh'd, and an old Acquaintance of 'mine, a Perſon of Worth, whom I wou'd have 'bow'd to in the Pit, at two Yards diſtance did not 'know me.

'If you were what the Country People reported 'you, a white Witch, I cou'd have wiſh'd you had 'been there to have exorcis'd that Rabble of Broom'ſticks, with which we were haunted for above 'three Hours. I cou'd have allow'd them to ſet *Clos* 'in the Tree, to have ſcar'd the Sportſmen, plagu'd 'the Juſtice, and employ'd honeſt *Teague* with his 'Holy Water. This was the proper Uſe of them 'in Comedy, if the Author had ſtopp'd here; but I 'cannot conceive what Relation the Sacrifice of the 'Black Lamb, and the Ceremonies of their Wor'ſhip to the Devil, have to the Buſineſs of Mirth 'and Humour.

'The Gentleman who writ this Play, and has drawn 'ſome Characters in it very juſtly, appears to have been 'miſ-led in his Witchcraft by an unwary following 'the inimitable *Shakeſpear*. The Incantations in '*Macbeth* have a Solemnity admirably adapted to

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'the Occasion of that Tragedy, and fill the Mind 'with a suitable Horror; besides, that the Witches 'are a part of the Story it self, as we find it very 'particularly related in *Hector Boetius*, from whom 'he seems to have taken it. This therefore is a 'proper Machine where the Business is dark, hor-'rid and bloody; but is extreamly foreign from the 'Affair of Comedy. Subjects of this kind, which 'are in themselves disagreeable, can at no time be-'come entertaining, but by passing thro' an Imagi-'nation like *Shakespear*'s to form them;' for which 'Reason Mr. *Dryden* wou'd not allow even *Beau-'mont* and *Fletcher* capable of imitating him.

*But* Shakespear's *Magick cou'd not copy'd be,*
*Within that Circle none durst Walk but He.*

'I shou'd not however have troubled you with 'these Remarks, if there were not something else 'in this Comedy, which wants to be exorcis'd more 'than the Witches. I mean the Freedom of some 'Passages, which I should have overlook'd, if I 'had not observed that those Jests can raise the 'loudest Mirth, tho' they are painful to right Sense, 'and an Outrage upon Modesty.

'We must attribute such Liberties to the Taste of 'that Age, but indeed by such Representations a 'Poet sacrifices the best Part of his Audience to the 'worst, and, as one wou'd think, neglects the Boxes, 'to write to the Orange Wenches.

I must not conclude till I have taken notice of 'the Moral with which this Comedy ends. The 'two young Ladies having given a notable Exam-'ple of outwitting those who had a Right in the 'Disposal of them, and marrying without Consent 'of Parents, one of the injur'd Parties, who is easi-'ly reconcil'd, winds up all with this Remark,

*——Design whate'er we will,*
*There is a Fate which over-rules us still.*

'We are to suppose that the Gallants are Men 'of Merit, but if they had been Rakes the Excuse 'might have serv'd as well. *Hans Carvel*'s Wife 'was of the same Principle, but has express'd it 'with a Delicacy which shows she is not serious in 'her Excuse, but in a sort of Humorous Philoso-'phy turns off the Thought of her Guilt, and says,

*That if weak Women go astray*
*Their Stars are more in fault than they.*

'This no doubt is a full Reparation, and dis-'misses the Audience with very edifying Impressions.

'These things fall under a Province you have part-'ly pursu'd already, and therefore demand your Ani-'madversion, for the regulating so Noble an Enter-'tainment as that of the Stage. It were to be wish-'ed that all who write for it hereafter wou'd raise 'their Genius, by the Ambition of pleasing People 'of the best Understanding, and leave others who 'shew nothing of the Human Species, but Rilibility, 'to seek their Diversion at the Bear-Garden, or some 'other Privileg'd Place, where Reason and good 'Manners have no Right to disturb them.

*August* 8, 1711. *I am*, &c.

*Compleat Setts of this Paper, for the Month of July, are to be sold by Mr. Graves in St. James's Street; Mr. Lewis under Tom's Coffee-House, Co-vent-Garden; Mr. Lillie, Perfumer, at the Corner of Beaufort-Buildings; Mrs. Treganey, near Essex-Street; Mrs. Boulter next the Rose Tavern at Temple Bar; Mr. Sanger at the Temple Gate; Mr. Lloyd near the Church in the Temple; Mr. Knapton in St. Paul's Church-Yard; Mr. Roundin Exchange Alley, and Mrs. Bald-win in Warwick-lane; where also may be had those for the Months of March, April, May and June.*

## *ADVERTISEMENTS.*


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AT the Theatre Royal in Drury Lane, on Tuesday next being the 14th Day of August, will be presented, A Comedy call'd the Lancashire Witches. Written by the Ingenious Mr. Shadwell, late Poet Laureat, Carefully Revis'd. With all the Original Decorations of Scenes, Witche's Songs and Dances, proper to the Dramma. The Principal Parts to be perform'd by Mr. Mills, Mr. Booth, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Bullock Sen. Mr. Norris, Mr. Pack, Mr. Bullock Jun. Mr. Elrington, Mrs. Powel, Mrs. Braishaw, Mrs. Cox. And the Witches by Mr. Burkhead, Mr. Ryan, Mrs. Mills and Mrs. Willis. It being the last time of Acting it this Season.

An Incomparable pleasant Tincture to restore the Sense of Smelling; tho' lost for many Years. A few Drops of which being snuff'd up the Nose, infallibly cures those who have lost their Smell, let it proceed from what Cause soever; it admirably pene-trates all manner of Obstructions of the Olfactory, or Smelling Nerves, com-forts and strengthens the Head and Brain, and revives the Smelling Faculty to a Miracle, effectually removing whatever is the Cause of the Disorder of that Sense, and perfectly Cures, so as to make the Person to smell as quick and well as any one in the World, from 2 s. 6 d. a Bottle. Sold only at Mr. Payne's Toyshop at the Angel and Crown in St. Paul's Church-Yard near Cheapside, with Directions.

An Admirable Confect, which assuredly Cures Stut-tering or Stammering in Children or grown Persons, tho' never so bad, causing them to speak distinct and free, without any trouble or diffi-culty; it remedies all manner of Impediments in the Speech, or Di-sorders of the Voice of any kind, proceeding from what Cause soever, rendering those Persons capable of speaking easily, free, and with a clear Voice, who before were not able to utter a Sentence without Hesi-tation; its stupendious Effects, in so quickly and infallibly curing Stutt ring, Stammering and all disorders of the Voice, and distinct in delivery of the Speech, are really wonderful. Price 2 s. 6 d. a Box with Directions. Sold only at Mr. Osborn's Toy-shop at the Red and Crown under St. Dunstan's Church, Fleetstreet.

This is to certify, That my Child being almost reduced to the very Grave from the extream Agony he underwent by its violent Breeding of Teeth, was thro' God's Goodness restored to perfect Ease and Safety, upon the use of that truly Noble Medicine prepared for those Cases, by Mr. Perronet Surgeon in Dyot-street Bloomsbury. Witness my Hand, S. Warburton, Razor-maker in Gray's-Inn-Passage by Red Lyon-Square. This Medicine is sold at 2 s. 6 d. the Vial, by the Author aforesaid, Mr. Alcraft at the Blew Coat Boy against the Royal Exchange, Cornhil, and by Mr. Watkins Tobacconist against the Market, in King-street Westminster.

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